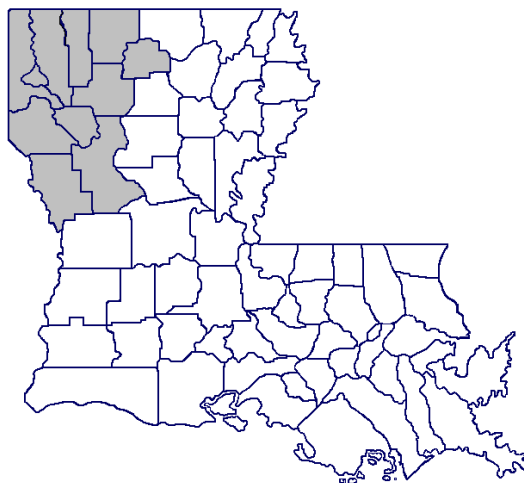


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 7
FOURTH QUARTER 2002
COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES**

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto,
Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 7 during fourth quarter 2002 was 219,978, an increase of 1.3% from the third quarter 2002, and a decrease of 1.2% from the same period in 2001. Employment increased in nine of the 20 NAICS sectors from the third quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 27.1% was in educational services.

Average quarterly employment data for fourth quarter 2002, third quarter 2002, fourth quarter 2001, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 65. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 7 with 38,584 employees, or 17.5% of total employment. Caddo was the leading parish with 118,661 employees, or 53.9% of total employment.

Total wages increased 1.3% from the same period in 2001, and increased 9.2% from the third quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$564.40. Caddo parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$618.81.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 7 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 7" beginning on page 68.

Parish	Avg. Wkly. Wage
Bienville	\$ 499.76
Bossier	497.60
Caddo	618.81
Claiborne	504.29
Desoto	564.91
Lincoln	533.96
Natchitoches	474.24
Red River	454.83
Sabine	460.91
Webster	484.81

The number of reporting units in RLMA 7 for fourth quarter 2002 was 13,789.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

